

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) An air conditioning duct arrangement for a vehicle, comprising:
  - an air conditioning unit disposed near a rear wheelwell of the vehicle;
  - a floor panel including a lower section, a rise rising from the lower section, and an upper section extending backward from the rise; and
  - a duct which extends from the air conditioning unit in the right-and-left direction of the vehicle in an area behind the rise, and which is formed so as to open forward into a compartment of the vehicle through the rise,
    - wherein the rise is formed by a cross member of the vehicle, and the duct extends along a back surface of the cross member, and then opens into the compartment through the cross member, and
    - wherein a front portion of a seat base of a seat of the vehicle is disposed on the cross member, the seat base is arranged in an inclined manner such that the front portion thereof is made higher than a rear portion thereof, the duct extends in the right-and-left direction of the vehicle in a space behind the cross member and under the seat base, and the space is defined by the cross member and the floor panel.
- 2-3. (Canceled)
4. (Original) An air conditioning duct arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the duct opens forward into the compartment while being inclined downward.
5. (Original) An air conditioning duct arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the duct includes an opening, which opens into the compartment, at a laterally central position of the vehicle.

6. (Original) An air conditioning duct arrangement according to claim 5, further comprising distribution fins in the opening, which distribute conditioned air in the left-and-front direction and in the right-and-front direction.

7. (New) An air conditioning duct arrangement according to claim 1, further comprising:

a floor sheet disposed on the cross member having a hole through which the duct opens into the compartment; and

a duct cover covering a periphery of the hole in the floor sheet and having an engagement tongue which is engageable with the cross member.

8. (New) An air conditioning duct arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the floor panel includes a concave portion in which the seat in a folded state is stowed, and the seat is provided with a flat board pivotally connected thereto which is maintained to be disposed on the cross member when the seat is stowed in the concave portion.